

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 688

By Wilder

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Judge Paul Reeves Summers.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Judge Paul Reeves Summers who so ably served the people of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Judge Paul R. Summers was fondly remembered by his colleague and close friend, Tennessee Supreme Court Chief Justice Frank Drowota, as a dedicated and highly respected jurist and a man of great integrity with a warm and caring personality; and

WHEREAS, Paul Reeves Summers was born on May 31, 1923, in Somerville, Tennessee. He was a graduate of Lambuth College in Jackson, Tennessee and received his law degree from Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Judge Summers began his legal career by practicing law in his hometown of Somerville for a number of years. In 1960, he became a General Sessions Judge in Fayette County, a post he held for twelve years until being named a Chancery Court Judge for the Ninth Division; and

WHEREAS, recognized for his wisdom and expertise in 1975, Paul R. Summers was named Executive Secretary for the Tennessee Supreme Court. In 1977, Judge Summers returned to the bench when he accepted an appointment to the Western Section of the Tennessee Court of Appeals. He retired from the Court of Appeals in 1982; and

WHEREAS, a soldier as well as a scholar, Paul Reeves Summers is also remembered as a man of courage with a keen sense of duty that saw him answer the call of his country to military service; and

WHEREAS, Paul R. Summers served over 35 years in the armed services of his country. He was an instructor pilot with the Army Air Corp and later a member of the United States Air Force. Utilizing his legal training, he proudly served with the Army Judge Advocate General's Corps; and

WHEREAS, retiring from the Tennessee Army National Guard at the rank of Brigadier General in 1978, Paul Reeves Summers was a highly decorated officer having received numerous decorations and awards including the American Campaign Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, and the Legion of Merit; and

WHEREAS, deeply admired by his fellow officers, Tennessee Adjutant General, Major General Gus L. Hargett, cited Brigadier General Summers as a friend and mentor who was instrumental in fostering a positive relationship between the civilian sector and the military; and

WHEREAS, a member of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, Judge Summers was also a Scottish Rite Mason. By appointment of then Governor Lamar Alexander he served as a member of the State Board of Education for three years; and

WHEREAS, in heartfelt tribute to his longtime friend, Lt. Governor John S. Wilder said, "He was good. He was the best. He made the difference. He knew the truth and right from wrong...This nation needs more like him"; and

WHEREAS, a devoted husband, Paul R. Summers enjoyed the love and companionship of his beloved wife of 56 years, Peggy Myers Summers, and was the proud father of Paul Garvan Summers, Tennessee Attorney General, and Phillip Mark Summers, Director of Operations for Cardinal Healthcare in Ontario, California. He will be sadly mourned by his treasured grandchildren, Isaac, Julia, and Jessica; and

WHEREAS, Paul Reeves Summers leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the extraordinary life of an exceptional public servant, constant friend, and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Judge Paul Reeves Summers, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Judge Summers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the family of Judge Summers, with this final clause omitted from such copy